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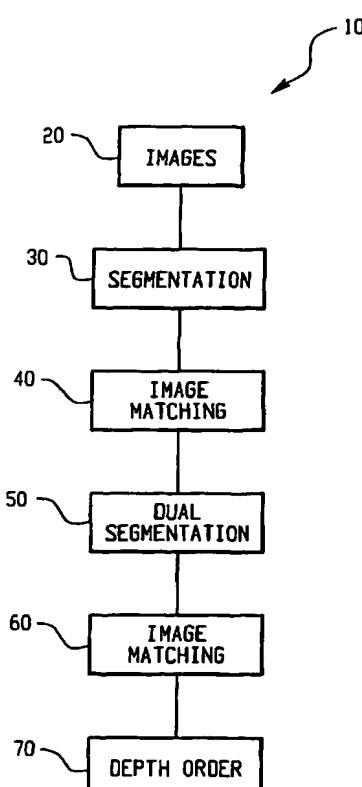
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DEPTH ORDERING OF DIGITAL IMAGES



(57) Abstract: In a method for relative depth of parts of one or more digital images, the digital images are regularized by segmentation, and at least part of the pixels of the images are assigned to respective segments. The relative motion of the segments for successive images is estimated by image matching. The image features of the segments are regularized by dual segmentation, in which the edges of the segments are found, pixels are assigned to the edges, and dual segments are defined. The relative motion of the dual segments for successive images is estimated by image segment matching in order to determine the relative depth order of the image segments.



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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 02/21443 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV) 14 March 2002 (2002-03-14)</p> <p>title</p> <p>abstract</p> <p>page 1, line 23 – line 26</p> <p>page 3, line 11 – page 8, line 16</p> <p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	1-15

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the International search	Date of mailing of the International search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Eckert, L

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>GAVRILA D M ED - JAIN A K ET AL: "Multi-feature hierarchical template matching using distance transforms" PATTERN RECOGNITION, 1998. PROCEEDINGS. FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BRISBANE, QLD., AUSTRALIA 16-20 AUG. 1998, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, 16 August 1998 (1998-08-16), pages 439-444, XP010297649 ISBN: 0-8186-8512-3 abstract section "1 Introduction" section "2.2 Match Measures and Strategies"</p> <p>-----</p>	1-15

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0221443	A 14-03-2002	CN 1388948	T	01-01-2003
		WO 0221443	A1	14-03-2002
		EP 1317735	A1	11-06-2003
		JP 2004508641	T	18-03-2004
		US 2002048402	A1	25-04-2002